## IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with a status identifier in parenthesis. Kindly cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained in these claims and add new claims 15-32. No new matter has been added.

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.      (Cancelled).


2.      (Cancelled).


3.      (Cancelled).


4.      (Cancelled).


5.      (Cancelled).


6.      (Cancelled).


7.      (Cancelled).


8.      (Cancelled).


9.      (Cancelled).


10.     (Cancelled).


11.     (Cancelled).

12.     (Cancelled).

13.     (Cancelled).

14.     (Cancelled).

15.     (New)     A method for authenticating a client to one or more
application servers comprising the steps of:

receiving a login request that includes a client identifier;

providing a report containing a list of one or more pre-authenticated
application servers associated with the client identifier that the client can
access;

receiving a pre-authentication request to establish a communication link
between the client and a selected application server in the list;

providing the selected application server with information, including the
client identifier, for authenticating a link request sent directly from the client to
establish the link between the client and application server; and

providing the client with information, including the client identifier, to
forward the link request directly to the selected application server to establish
the link to establish the link between the client and application server.

16.     (New)     The method of claim 15, wherein the information provided
to the selected application server comprises an address for the client and
session assignment information regarding the link request.

17.     (New)     The method of claim 15, wherein the information provided
to the selected application server comprises encrypted information.

18.    (New)    The method of claim 16, wherein the session assignment information comprises at least one of the following:

information for limiting access by the client to features on the selected application server; and

session timeout information.

19.    (New)    The method of claim 15, wherein the information provided to the client comprises a unique address for the client to access the selected application server, and session assignment information regarding the link request.

20.    (New)    The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the unique address and the session assignment information are encrypted.

21.    (New)    The method of claim 15, wherein the report comprises a hypertext link to each of the one or more application servers, respectively.

22.    (New)    The method of claim 21, wherein the hypertext link comprises a command prepared for a communication initiator engine to use in communicating with the one application server.

23.    (New)    The method of claim 15, wherein the report is encrypted.

24.    (New)    An authentication server for authenticating a client to one or more application servers comprising:

an identifier engine for receiving a login request that includes a client identifier and providing a report containing a list of one or more pre-

authenticated application servers associated with the client identifier that the client can access; and

a communication initiator engine for,

receiving a pre-authentication request to establish a communication link between the client and a selected application server in the list;

providing the selected application server with information, including the client identifier, for authenticating a link request sent directly from the client to establish the link between the client and application server; and

providing the client with information, including the client identifier, to forward the link request directly to the selected application server to establish the link between the client and application server.

25. (New) The server of claim 24, wherein the information provided to the selected application server comprises an address for the client and session assignment information regarding the link request.

26. (New) The server of claim 24, wherein the information provided to the selected application server comprises encrypted information.

27. (New) The server of claim 25, wherein the session assignment information comprises at least one of the following:

information for limiting access by the client to features on the selected application server; and

session timeout information.

28. (New) The server of claim 25, wherein the information provided to the client comprises a unique address for the client to access the selected

application server, and session assignment information regarding the link request.

29.    (New)    The server of claim 28, wherein at least one of the unique address and the session assignment information are encrypted.

30.    (New)    The server of claim 24, wherein the report comprises a hypertext link to each of the one or more application servers, respectively.

31.    (New)    The server of claim 30, wherein the hypertext link comprises a command prepared for a communication initiator engine to use in communicating with the one application server.

32.    (New)    The server of claim 24, wherein the report is encrypted.